APRIL

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

APRIL MEETING

Date: Friday, April 29, 8:15 p.m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Speaker: Bristol Foster
Subject: "ROVING THREE CONTINENTS"

After eighteen months and 55,000 miles of roaming the continents of Africa, Asia and Australia, Mr. Foster returned with this fascinating color film in which he has preserved many and unusual forms of animal life as well as a record of adventures that would be thrilling to the most seasoned explorer. This is the last in the current series of Audubon Screen Tours. (Members and guests)

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"COLOR IN THE COSMOS" continues through May 15.

The many colors of the spectrum found in the vast clouds of vapor and gas which swirl about the stars have unlocked some of their secrets. Featured in this show are recent color photographs taken at Mt. Palomar with the 200-inch Hale telescope and the 48" Schmidt camera. Performances daily, Wednesday through Sunday, at 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., with an extra matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. (Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢)

"SCIENCE IN ACTION"

Monday nights, 7:00 p.m., KRON-TV, Channel 4.

April 11: "Heat Transfer", with Guest Scientist, Dr. Harvey E. White, University of California.

April 18: "Madagascar Expedition", with Dr. Edward S. Ross, California Academy of Sciences.

April 25: "Space Age Research", with scientists from Aerojet-General Corporation, Sacramento.

May 2: "Computers", with Dr. Edward Teller and Dr. Sidney Fernback, Livermore Branch, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory.

May 9: "Fuels For Space", with Dr. Howard S. Seifert, United Technology Corporation.

NEWS and NOTES . . . . . .

Beginning Tuesday, April 26, the Department of Astronomy will inaugurate a 16-week course in "Celestial Navigation" comprised of 10 two-hour classes, 7-9 p.m., and 6 one-hour classes, 7-8 p.m. The course will be held in Morrison Planetarium under the direction of Commander Maurice R. Amsden, USNR, who is Professor of Physical Sciences at San Francisco State College as well as the recently-appointed Assistant Curator of the Academy's Department of Astronomy.

This invaluable course will offer more than just the theory of navigation by the stars in that it will supply student mariners with the necessary practical information needed for them to plot their courses and navigate successfully in the open sea. The fee for attendance at the 16 Tuesday evening sessions will be $15.00, and enrollment will take place at the first two meetings on April 26 and May 3.

Mr. Benjamin H. Banta of Pomona College has been the recipient of an AAAS-Academy Research Grant for herpetological work which will be carried out this spring in the isolated Saline Valley of Inyo County.

The California Spring Blossom and Wild Flower Association will present its 37th Annual Wild Flower Show in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature on April 26 from 1-9 p.m., and on April 27 from 10:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Though the accent will be on wild flowers, smaller exhibits will feature cultivated flowers, conifers, weeds, grasses, and plants of the seashore, to mention but a few. The public is cordially invited to attend.

At the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Fisheries Biologists held at Seattle, Washington during the week of March 21, Director Robert C. Miller gave a discussion of fish behavior, based upon research pursued at the Academy by Anatole Loukashkin, Norman Grant, and the late Morris Morgan, under contract with the California State Marine Research Committee.

Through monies made available by the Belvedere Scientific Fund, the Department of Botany has been able to purchase duplicate and undistributed specimens of flora collected in Mexico around the turn of the century by Cyrus G. Pringle for whom the Pringle Herbarium at the University of Vermont is named.

Similar material collected by Mr. Pringle was in the Academy's collection prior to the earthquake and fire of 1906. It is easy to understand the Botany Department's delight in once again having in its possession some 2500 specimens which are considered of inestimable value to any institution which is doing work and research on the Mexican flora.

During the latter part of March, Dr. and Mrs. G. Dallas Hanna of the Department of Geology, in company with Mr. Charles W. Chesterman, Research Associate in the Department, made a successful one-week collecting trip to Searles Lake in search of fresh-water fossils.

On March 18, the staff of the Academy's J. W. Mailliard, Jr., Library was host to approximately 150 members of the College, University and Research Libraries Section, Northern Division, of the California Library Association at their Spring Meeting.

After a morning session which included a business meeting and lectures on personnel and translation problems, the group was conducted on a tour of Steinhart Aquarium and invitied to attend the afternoon show at Morrison Planetarium.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Upon presentation of your membership card, Academy members are now entitled to a 10% discount on all Academy publications and scientific materials available at the Academy sales desks.

The Department of Exhibits is the scene of much interesting activity. Work-in-progress includes the final stages in the mounting of the rhinoceros which will serve eventually as the companion piece to the already-completed hippopotamus now in Simson African Hall, the design and planning of the permanent exhibits for the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany, the renovation of the seismograph exhibit in the Hall of Science, and the general re-designing and executing-in-miniature of various of the permanent exhibits throughout the Academy which are in need of renovation or refurbishing.

Meet the Staff

LILLIAN DEMPSTER'S facility with languages led her, by an interesting and circuitous route, to her present position as Assistant Curator in the Academy's Department of Fishes. Her major at the University of Washington was in languages, a far cry it might seem for a lady from Ladysmith, British Columbia, who now approaches the dissection of a 16-foot Man-Eater Shark with the scientific knowledge, interest and aplomb of a trained ichthyologist.

It was during the days in Seattle that she met her husband, Robert Dempster, Associate Curator of both the Academy's Department of Aquatic Biology and Steinhart Aquarium, which will give you a first clue as to one reason for Mrs. Dempster's interest in all things that swim.

Mrs. Dempster's knowledge of French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish and Russian (which she insists she can read but not speak) made her a valued employee of the War Department during the War Years. In 1946, Dr. W. M. Chapman of the Academy's curatorial staff needed some assistance in the publication of the Aquarium Journal, and it was then that Mrs. Dempster's association with the Academy began. Now, she is not only the good right hand of W. I. Follett, Curator of the Department of Ichthyology, but invaluable to the entire Academy in the translating of letters and documents which arrive daily.

Though her prime interest is her work, Mrs. Dempster enjoys music, ballet, opera and social dancing. She still nurses a deep desire, however, to expand her knowledge of the languages of the world. Next projects: Sanskrit and Arabic -- which she avows will one day come to pass.

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